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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 19 FEBRUARY 2018

RE: MAN SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE IMPRISONMENT TERMS FOR RAPE AND MURDER

The Local Division of the Limpopo High Court sitting in Thohoyandou sentenced Mbushi Radzilani Tshimangadzo (26) of Miluwani Village, in Sibasa to two life imprisonment terms for rape and murder and a further eight years for defeating the ends of justice.

The court heard that on 22 May 2016, the victim's mother, summoned the help of the community and the police to search for the little girl who was later found dead. After some days the accused was arrested.

The accused in his plea has admitted that he was renting for accommodation at the victim's homestead. The accused then called the six year old girl to his room where he raped her. The victim told the accused that he was going to tell her mother. The accused then strangled her until she died. He then put her in the mealie bag and dumped her in the pit toilet.

In aggravating of sentence, Advocate Ratshilumela Makhera submitted that the accused had abused his position of trust of the little girl since they were staying together in the same homestead. He also submitted that he raped a little girl who by then didn't know anything about sex. It was more aggravating that the little girl was killed because she indicated that she was going to tell her mother. He further submitted that, the accused is a sly and cunning person who wanted to erase all the trace with regard to the murder, hence he put the dead body inside the mealie meal bag and into the toilet. Advocate Makhera submitted that the accused also tried to mislead the police by phoning them after the victim was discovered.

When passing the sentence, Judge Kgomo indicated that there were no substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the prescribed minimum sentences. He indicated that, what the accused did, was brutal and inhumane.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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